Production and supply of edible oil

1861. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further import edible oils;

(b) if so, the quantity of edible oils proposed to be imported during 1990 as compared to the imports during 1989 stating the cost involved in terms of foreign exchange;

(c) what is the shortfall in the production of oilseeds as against the estimated target for 1989 and 1990 (till date) and the gap between demand and supply; and

(d) what is the percentage of rise in the prices of edible oils due to short supply of oilseeds during 1989 and 1990 (till date) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) and (b) The quantity of edible oil to be imported is a subject to constant review based on a number of factors like production of edible oilseeds, availability and prices of indigenous oil and the foreign exchange available for this purpose etc. As such it is not possible to indicate the final quantity of edible oil likely to be imported during the current year. Edible oils are imported on Financial Year basis. During the current Financial year 1990-91 (till 15-5-1990), the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd has already contracted to import about 66,000 Mts. of palmolein at an approximate value of Rs 35 crores at prevailing exchange rates. During the Financial year 1989-90 the canalised agency imported 2.94 lakhs Mts. of Edible Oils at an approximate value of Rs. 165·78 crores at prevailing exchange rates.

(c) The estimated production of oilseed vis-a-vis targets during the oil year 1988-89 and 1989-90 are as under :—

(in lakh tonnes)

1988-89		1989-90	
Target	Production	Target	Production
156·5	178.9	165·0	169.0*

*Based on present assessment.

The actual import during oil year 1988-89 was 3·7 lakh tonnes The gap between demand and supply of edible oils during the oil-year 1989-90 is estimated to be 10·5 lakh Mts.

(d) The wholesale price index of edible oils increased by 2·5% during 1989 while the percentage increase during 1990 (upto 5-5-90) has been about 9·6%.

Different norms for supply in rural and urban areas through Fair Price Shops

1862. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the distribution of supplies is being made through fair price shops in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, what is the quantity itemwise per consumer, being distributed in the urban and rural areas;

(e) what are the reasons for different norms of supplies in the rural and urban areas;

(d) whether Government would consider to apply one norm of distribution of supplies in rural and urban areas; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The commodities to be supplied through Public Distribution System are allocated by the Central Government to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Internal distribution of these commodities within the States/UTs, including the scale of ration, is decided by the State Government/ U.T. Administration concerned taking into account various factors such as total availability, inter-se requirements of rural and urban areas in the districts etc.

Allotment of government accommodation on Barter basis

1863. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the retiring Government employees having general pool accommodation allotment due to certain of separate pool for some Departments where their wards are working;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to allot accommodation on barter basis to the wards of such employees; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Allotment of General Pool accommodation to the wards of the retiring employees is made only if both the retiring employee as well as the ward is eligible for General Pool accommodation. If the ward is employed in a department having separate pool and is not eligible for General Pool the concession of General Pool allotment to him is not available.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. Since none of the departments having their own pool of accommodation has suggested such arrangement.

Purchase of vegetable oils by NDDB

1864. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's intervention policy is to help the farmers by purchasing vegetable oil from the open market as was done by NDDB;

(b) whether Government are aware that the NDDB operations are aimed at helping middlemen and ensure continued imports of MNCs as has happened for milk products; and

(c) whether Government would set up a parliamentary group to enquire into all operations of NDDB which were not touched by Jha Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Government has asked NDDB to undertake market intervention operations so as to